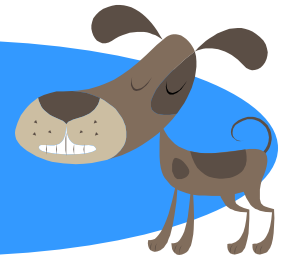


Gimme Shelter

News from the Loudoun County Animal Shelter

Loudoun County
Department of
Animal Care &
Control



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Home for the Holidays

Staff at the Loudoun County Animal Shelter recently discovered a strange letter in their outgoing mail box. Addressed to "Santa Claws," the letter appeared to be written overnight while the animals were supposed to be sleeping.



Animal Shelter officials are responding to this request with a special **Home for the Holidays** adoption program. Through the month of December, the **spay/neuter fee** will be **waived** for all cats & dogs adopted from the Shelter. The goal of the program is to find a **new home** for **every animal** in the Shelter before the New Year!

Animals available for adoption can be seen online at the Shelter's website: www.loudoun.gov/animals. Animals can be visited at the Animal Shelter, located off Route 9 in Waterford, during the following times: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday 1:00-6:00pm, Wednesday 1:00-8:00pm, and Saturday 11:00am-6:00pm.

Dear Santa Claws,

We've been really purr-fect cats this year, and we hope that you get this letter. We aren't asking for new toys or even treats. What we really want for the holidays is a real home of our very own.

Don't get us wrong, everyone here at the shelter is really nice, and they take good care of us. But it is just not the same as having a home and family of our own. Some of us came from homes where the people really loved us, but just couldn't keep us anymore. And some of our families had to move and we weren't allowed to go along. And a couple of us lived out on our own in the streets.

No matter why we came to the shelter, we are all really good boys and girls, and we will make great pets. We don't scratch anything that we're not supposed to, and we all have been very tidy about using our litter boxes. We love to cuddle and play with the people who come to visit, but we would really like for someone to take us home and love us forever. So if you could help us to find some families that are looking for wonderful pets, we'd be forever grateful!

Love,

The Loudoun County Animal Shelter Cats

PS – the dogs here are looking for homes too. They don't bark too much and are actually very nice (considering they are dogs, after all).

PPS – there are a lot of guinea pigs and hamsters here too! They are mighty cute... and they need homes too.



Pet Pantry Update

The Holiday Pet Pantry is gearing up to begin in just under 3 weeks! We are busy collecting donations for the Pantry, which will open its doors on Saturday, December 12 and run through December 19. This year's pet pantry will be a little different than years past, as we will be using the mobile adoption vehicle as our base of operations! This will allow us to stock even more supplies for all the companion animals that we are hoping to help.

We have received generous donations from individuals as well as from local Scout and school troops. **But we are still in need of food, treats, and toys, especially for cats and small animals.** Donations are being accepted at the

Animal Shelter or at any of the Holiday Coalition drop off sites. A complete list of locations can be found online at www.loudoun.gov/holidaycoalition.

This year's Pet Pantry is expected to be the largest in the program's history, as more residents in our community need help during tough economic times. Nearly 2,000 pets have received assistance since the program began in 2005.

For more information on Animal Care & Control's C.A.R.E. program, which provides assistance to pet owners year-round, visit www.loudoun.gov/animals.



Employee of the Month

Virginia Newsome is November's Employee of the Month! Virginia is being recognized for her excellent and unselfish work as an Animal Control Officer. Her outstanding support to her coworkers and other Department staff is highly commendable. Staff has recognized her willingness to cover in dispatch, in the field and while on-call when another ACO was sick, and in covering any field assignment in the County no matter the east or the west. In addition, she is being

recognized for being the first ACO to incorporate the "common language" radio call format into everyday work. She demonstrates great support to the supervisory team in providing area coverage while they develop/revise new policies and update the Field Training Manual. Her positive attitude and willingness to work with and support her coworkers is greatly appreciated.

Thank you Virginia for all you do!



Congratulations Virginia!

What We're Up To...

Holiday Schedule

The Animal Shelter will close at 12:00pm on Wednesday, November 25 for the Thanksgiving holiday. The shelter will re-open with normal business hours on Saturday, November 28.

Emergency animal control services are available when the shelter is closed by calling 703-777-0445.

Got Newspaper?

Looking for a new way to recycle your newspapers? Bring them to us! The Animal Shelter uses newspapers as bedding for small critters among other things, and we are always in need of more!

Newspapers can be dropped off at the shelter anytime during normal business hours. The critters will thank you!

